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November 15, 2007

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Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
 Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
 Surface Transportation Board  
 395 E Street, S.W.  
 Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am currently President at Citizens for Conservation in the Barrington, Illinois area. In my capacity as President over the past two years, I have represented the interests of our organization in our community. Citizens for Conservation serves a vital purpose in the community through our mission of "Saving living space for living things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education.

It has come to our attention that Canadian National Railway Company (CN) seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings, and potential redevelopment of areas adjacent to the tracks. Only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The Section for Environmental Analysis (SEA) should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impacts of concern mentioned previously. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,



Edith M. Auchter, President

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION  
 459 West Highway 22  
 Barrington, Illinois 60010

